

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): MAKINO, et al  
Serial No.: Rule 1.53(b) continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial  
No. 10/656,334, filed September 8, 2003  
Filed: Herewith  
For: VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

March 30, 2004

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application prior to examination thereof, as  
set forth herein. This paper includes the following:

**Amendment to the Specification**

**Amendment to the Claims**

**Amendment to the Abstract**

**Remarks**